**IN THE CLAIMS**:

Amend Claims 2-20 as follows:

1. (Original) A multiple telescopic tube with at least two outer tubes (1) arranged parallel to each other and at least two inner tubes (2) arranged parallel to the outer tubes (1), the inner tubes being displaceable relative to the outer tubes (1) in the longitudinal direction (Z), and

having a clamping device (3), which comprises a clamping engagement element (5) which may be brought into engagement with the outer surfaces of the inner tubes (2), whereby,

on loading of the multiple telescopic tube in a longitudinal clamping direction, the clamping device (3) prevents displacement of the inner tubes (2) relative to the outer tubes (1) in this longitudinal clamping direction, whereas

the displaceability in the opposing longitudinal direction is maintained.

2. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the loading in the longitudinal clamping direction correspond to a compression loading of the multiple tube.

3. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1, wherein~~characterised in that~~ the loading in the longitudinal clamping direction corresponds to a tensional loading of the multiple telescopic tube.

4. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1 ~~one of the previous claims~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ at least one of the inner tube (2) is arranged in one of the outer tubes (1).

5. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1 ~~one of the previous claims~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the clamping device (3) has an engagement

actuation element (7), which is firmly linked to the outer tubes (2) and is movable relative to the clamping engagement element (5).

6. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 5, wherein ~~characterised in that~~, on loading the multiple telescopic tube in the longitudinal clamping direction, the engagement actuation element (7) comes into engagement with the clamping engagement element (5).

7. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the relative movement between the engagement elements (5, 7) brings about a movement of the clamping engagement element (5) in the direction of the outer surfaces of the inner tubes (2).

8. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1 ~~one of the previous claims~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the clamping device (3) also has a release device (8) for releasing the engagement between the clamping engagement element (5) and the exterior surfaces of the inner tubes (2).

9. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the release device (8) is a slider (8) movable in the longitudinal direction of the multiple telescopic tube.

10. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to ~~claims~~ claim 5 ~~and 8~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the clamping engagement element (5) is movable relative to the engagement actuation element (7) ~~by means~~ of the release device (8).

11. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim ~~one of the claims~~ 8 ~~to 10~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the release device (8) is pretensioned by ~~means of~~ an elastic element (12) in a direction opposed to the release.

12. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim ~~one of the claims~~ 5 ~~to 11~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the engagement actuation element (7) is designed to be complementary to the clamping engagement element (5).

13. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the engagement elements (5, 7) are in wedge-formed engagement with each other.

14. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1 ~~one of the previous claims~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the clamping engagement element (5) comprises at least two members, between which the engagement actuation element (7) is situated.

15. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the number of members of the clamping engagement element (5) is equal to the number of inner tubes (2).

16. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1 ~~one of the previous claims~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ two inner tubes (2) and two outer tubes (1) are provided.

17. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1 ~~one of the previous claims~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the clamping device (3) has a housing (4) in which the engagement elements (5, 7) are accommodated.

18. (Currently Amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 17, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the housing (4) is firmly linked to the outer tubes (1).

19. (Currently Amended) A stand with at least one multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1 ~~one of the previous claims~~ as a stand leg.

20. (Currently Amended) The stand according to claim 19, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ it is a camera stand.